

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. An apparatus for removably mounting a computer peripheral device into a bay of a
2 computer, the apparatus comprising:
3 a computer peripheral device having a side surface, the side surface having a first key
4 profile and plural alignment elements; and
5 a mounting rail having a second key profile adapted to lockingly engage the first key
6 profile, the mounting rail further having alignment elements to engage corresponding
7 alignment elements of the computer peripheral device.
- 1 2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the mounting rail is attached to the computer
2 peripheral device by the first and second key profiles without the use of an additional
3 fastener.
- 1 3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the mounting rail is attached to the computer
2 peripheral device by the first and second key profiles without the use of a screw.
- 1 4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first key profile comprises a key receptacle, and
2 wherein the second key profile has a protruding element to lockingly engage the key
3 receptacle.
- 1 5. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the protruding element of the second key profile
2 has an enlarged plate for insertion into the key receptacle, the key receptacle further having a
3 reduced size opening that is narrower than the enlarged plate to enable locking engagement of
4 the enlarged plate within the receptacle.
- 1 6. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the alignment elements of the computer peripheral
2 device side surface comprises alignment holes, and the alignment elements of the mounting
3 rail comprise alignment posts adapted to engage the alignment holes.

1 7. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the mounting rail has an engagement recess to
2 engage a latch member in a peripheral device mounting bay of a system.

1 8. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the peripheral device has a second side surface
2 having a third key profile and plural alignment elements, the apparatus further comprising:
3 a second mounting rail having a fourth key profile adapted to lockingly engage the
4 third key profile, the second mounting rail having alignment elements to engage
5 corresponding alignment elements of the second side surface of the peripheral device.

1 9. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a shock absorbing member provided
2 between the mounting rail and the side surface of the peripheral device.

1 10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the shock absorbing member comprises a generally
2 ring-shaped member.

1 11. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the mounting rail is curved to provide a bending
2 force to enhance locking engagement between the first and second key profiles.

1 12. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the mounting rail is formed of a polymer.

1 13. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the mounting rail is removably mounted to the
2 computer peripheral device.

1 14. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein an assembly of the peripheral device and the
2 mounting rail is adapted to be removably mounted in the bay with a snap-locking mechanism.

1 15. A mounting apparatus for enabling the mounting of a computer peripheral device to a
2 peripheral device bay of a computer system, comprising:
3 a mounting rail; and
4 an adhesive element adapted to attach the mounting rail to a side surface of the
5 computer peripheral device.

1 16. The mounting apparatus of claim 15, wherein the mounting rail has alignment
2 elements to align the mounting rail with respect to the side surface of the computer peripheral
3 device.

1 17. The mounting apparatus of claim 15, wherein the mounting rail has a recess to receive
2 a latch member of the peripheral device bay.

1 18. The mounting apparatus of claim 15, further comprising a shock absorbing member
2 provided on a side of the mounting rail to face the computer peripheral device.

1 19. The mounting apparatus of claim 15, further comprising a second mounting rail and a
2 second adhesive element to attach the second mounting rail to the side surface of the
3 peripheral device.

1 20. The mounting apparatus of claim 19, further comprising a third mounting rail and a
2 third adhesive element to attach the third mounting rail to another side surface of the
3 peripheral device.

1 21. A method of mounting a computer peripheral device into a peripheral device bay of a
2 computer system, comprising:
3 providing the computer peripheral device having a side surface, the side surface
4 having a first key profile and plural alignment elements;
5 lockingly engaging a second key profile of a mounting rail to the first key profile; and
6 engaging alignment elements of the mounting rail with corresponding alignment
7 elements of the side surface of the computer peripheral device.

1 22. The method of claim 21, further comprising:
2 providing a recess in the mounting rail; and
3 engaging the recess with a latch member of the peripheral device bay upon mounting
4 the computer peripheral device in the peripheral device bay.

1 23. The method of claim 21, wherein lockingly engaging the mounting rail to the
2 computer peripheral device is accomplished without using a tool.

1 24. The method of claim 21, wherein the mounting rail is curved, and wherein engaging
2 the first and second key profiles comprises un-bending the mounting rail to enable
3 engagement of the first and second key profiles.

1 25. The method of claim 21, further comprising removably attaching the mounting rail to
2 the computer peripheral device.

1 26. A computer system comprising:
2 a computer peripheral device;
3 a bay receiving the computer peripheral device; and
4 a mounting rail attached to the computer peripheral device, the mounting rail slidably
5 engaged in the bay,
6 the computer peripheral device comprising a side surface having a first key profile
7 and alignment elements,
8 the mounting rail having a second key profile to be lockingly engaged to the first key
9 profile, the mounting rail further having alignment elements to engage corresponding
10 alignment elements of the side surface of the computer peripheral device.

1 27. The computer system of claim 26, wherein one of the first and second key profiles
2 comprises a protrusion, and the other one of the first and second key profiles comprises a key
3 receptacle to receive the protrusion.

1 28. The computer system of claim 27, wherein the protrusion comprises an enlarged plate
2 inserted through a first portion of the key receptacle, the key receptacle having a narrow
3 portion with a width less than that of the enlarged plate to enable locking engagement of the
4 first and second key profiles.

1 29. The computer system of claim 26, wherein the mounting rail is formed of a polymer.

1 30. The computer system of claim 26, wherein the bay comprises a snap-locking
2 mechanism to removably receive the computer peripheral device.